IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for reassemblying a packet, the method comprising the steps of:

locating a fragment packet descriptor associated with the packet; and

placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor associated with the packet.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of locating a fragment packet descriptor associated with the packet further comprises:

locating an entry in a reassembly table associated with the packet; and

dereferencing a pointer held in the entry to locate the fragment packet descriptor.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to reassemble the packet.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the request comprises:

an index to an entry in a reassembly table that is associated with the first fragment of the packet; and

a length value that is a count of the total number of entries in the reassembly table that are associated with the packet.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

deallocating the fragment packet descriptor.

6. (Original) A computer readable medium that includes computer executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1.

7. (Original) An apparatus for reassembling a packet, the apparatus comprising:
means for locating a fragment packet descriptor associated with the packet; and
means for placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor associated with the packet.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:
means for locating an entry in a reassembly table associated with the packet; and
means for dereferencing a pointer held in the entry to locate the fragment packet descriptor.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:
means for receiving a request to reassemble the packet.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:
means for deallocating the fragment packet descriptor.

11. (Original) A method for reassembling a packet, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving a plurality of fragments associated with the packet;
determining if all the fragments for the packet have been received; and
issuing a request to a reassembly assist function if all the fragments for the packet have been received.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the request comprises:
an index to an entry in a reassembly table that is associated with the first fragment of the packet; and
a length value that is a count of the total number of entries in the reassembly table that are associated with the packet.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining if all fragments for the packet have been received further comprising:

examining a bit map that indicates whether or not the fragments have been received.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:

tracking a fragment of the packet.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of tracking a fragment of the packet further comprising the steps of:

keeping a copy of a packet handle associated with the fragment in a reassembly table; and

maintaining a location in a bit map that indicates whether or not the fragment has been received.

16. (Original) A computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 11.

17. (Original) An apparatus for reassembling a packet, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of fragments associated with the packet;

means for determining if all the fragments for the packet have been received; and

means for issuing a request to a reassembly assist function if all the fragments for the packet have been received.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:

means for examining a bit map that indicates whether or not the fragments have been received.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:

means for tracking a fragment of the packet.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising:

means for keeping a copy of a packet handle associated with the fragment in a reassembly table; and

means for maintaining a location in a bit map that indicates whether or not the fragment has been received.

21. (Original) A system for reassembling a packet, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a reassembly assist configured to communicate with the processor;

whereby the processor receives a plurality of fragments associated with the packet, determines if all the fragments for the packet have been received and issues a request to the reassembly assist to reassemble the packet.

Please add new claims 22 et al.

22. (New) A method for reassemblying a packet, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor associated therewith;

placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor in a reassembly table associated with the packet; and

in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, issuing a request to a reassembly assist function.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of:

determining if all fragments have been received.

24. (New) An apparatus for reassemblying a packet, comprising:

means for receiving a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor associated therewith;

means for placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor in a reassembly table associated with the packet; and

in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, means for issuing a request to a reassembly assist function.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:

means for determining if all fragments have been received.

26. (New) A system for reassemblying a packet, comprising:

a processor receives a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor associated therewith;

a reassembly assist configured to communicate with the processor, the reassembly assist adapted to locate the fragment packet descriptor associated with the packet;

the processor configured to store a reassembly table, the reassembly table storing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor; and

in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, the processor issues a request to a reassembly assist function.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of:

the reassembly assist determines if all fragments have been received.

28. (New) Electromagnetic signals propagating on a computer network, comprising:

said electromagnetic signals carrying instructions for execution on a processor for the practice of reassemblying a packet, comprising,

receiving a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor associated therewith;

placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor in a reassembly table associated with the packet; and

in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, issuing a request to a reassembly assist function.

29. (New) A computer readable media, comprising:

said computer readable media having instructions written thereon for execution on a processor for the practice of reassemblying a packet, comprising,

receiving a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor associated therewith;

placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor in a reassembly table associated with the packet; and

in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, issuing a request to a re-assembly assist function.